

# Parish of St Monica Moonee Ponds

**Church:** 820 Mount Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds 3039

**Presbytery (Correspondence):** 22 Robinson Street, Moonee Ponds 3039

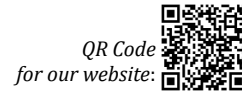
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**Parish Priest:** Rev Anthony J Doran ([Anthony.Doran@cam.org.au](mailto:Anthony.Doran@cam.org.au))

**Assistant Priest:** Rev Joseph Nguyen ([Joseph.Nguyen@cam.org.au](mailto:Joseph.Nguyen@cam.org.au))

**Parish Office Manager:** Mrs Sonia Cavallaro ([mooneeponds@cam.org.au](mailto:mooneeponds@cam.org.au))

**Admin Assistant:** Mrs Fran Adamopoulos ([mooneeponds@cam.org.au](mailto:mooneeponds@cam.org.au))



**The Second Sunday of Advent, Year B**

**10th December, 2023**

## Worship Timetable—Moonee Ponds

Sunday: **8.30 am** (*Italian & English*); **10.30 am**; **5.30 pm**  
Tuesday - Friday: **9.15 am**  
Saturday: **8.00 am**  
**8.30 am—Reconciliation**

## Worship Timetable—Strathmore

Saturday Vigil: **6.00 pm**  
Sunday: **9.30 am**  
Tuesday - Friday: **10.00 am**

## Parish Office Hours

Tuesday

to

Friday

**9.00 am - 3.30 pm**

Dear friends,

Our celebration of the season of Advent always has a two-fold character. Yes, we are preparing to celebrate the great feast of the Birth of Christ at Christmas. But, these first two weeks of Advent are largely concerned with the coming of Christ at the end of all time. And so, we find ourselves, if you like, caught up in one great Advent. One great time of waiting *between* the first coming of Christ at Bethlehem and the Second Coming of Christ. The whole history of salvation was changed with the Incarnation: the coming of the Son of God in our own human flesh. And the whole history of salvation will be brought to its culmination when Christ comes *again in glory to judge the living and the dead*. So we find ourselves in these *in-between* times.

As our guide for these *in-between* times, the Church places before us the figure of **John the Baptist**. John truly belongs to these *in-between* times. He stands as the last of the great prophets of the coming of the Lord. He is dressed as a prophet: wearing a **garment of camel-skin**. He lives on **locusts and wild honey** – the food of the prophets. The people who saw and heard the preaching of John the Baptist in the wilderness of Judaea would have seen in him something of the figure of the great prophet Elijah. But as much as he is a figure from the pages of the Old Testament, John the Baptist always points to the dawning of the era of the New Covenant. John always points to the One who follows him; the One whose sandals he is not fit even to undo the strap. John the Baptist always has one foot in the Old Testament and one foot in the New.

The appearance of John the Baptist is somewhat abrupt in Mark's Gospel. In only the fourth verse of Mark's Gospel we are told: **and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness...** And of course, we know that John the Baptist appeared just before Jesus began his own ministry of preaching and healing. And the message of John the Baptist was fresh and clear and simple: John proclaims **a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins**. Slightly wild-eyed, looking rough and ready in his cloak of camel hair, John calls the people of **all Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem** to repentance. And they are attracted to John the Baptist because his preaching resonates with them. There is a truth and a freshness and a simplicity in John's preaching which these people longed to hear. And John's preaching always, always points to the One who is to come, the One who is more powerful.

Mark is the shortest of all the Gospels. There is not much varnish on it; it is simple and gets directly to the point. It is also the first of the Gospels to be written: written for Christians in Rome who have suffered persecution from outside their community and division inside their own community. In the face of this persecution and division, there is an urgency to Christ's call to discipleship. And so, an urgent and indeed radical response is called for.

This is why the Baptist is placed before us during Advent. His simple, direct message is preached to us. As we follow the Lord during these *in-between* times, we are called to that same urgent and radical response for which John the Baptist called. That we repent of our sinfulness. That we make our hearts ready. So that we may be ready to welcome the One who follows John the Baptist, the One more powerful than he, the One who baptises us with the Holy Spirit.

With every peace,

Fr Tony.

Mass Time	Reader		Extraordinary Minister	
8.30 am	<b>A Savino</b>	<b>A M Catalfamo</b>	<b>S Maurici</b>	<b>M Ballato</b>
10.30 am	<b>D Connors</b>	<b>L Besterwitch</b>	<b>L Connors</b>	<b>J Morello</b>
5.30 pm	<b>M Passuello</b>		<b>E McMahon</b>	<b>R McMahon</b>

**CHURCH LINEN**

December—L Bani RSC

**CHURCH VACCUMING**

**TEAM 2-** Thursday 14th December at 2.00pm

*Please remember in your prayers...*

**Recently Deceased**

Ron Stobaus                      Brendan Soraghan

**Anniversaries**

Amadeo D’Aprano              Ronald James Tighe  
Neville Forster                 Gordon Windsor

**The Sick & Seriously Ill**

Please remember in your prayers all those in our Parish who are sick and suffering serious illness, together with their families and loved ones who care for them.

**Parish Contact List**

If you have not already done so, please make sure you subscribe to the new Parish Contact List — simply send an email to [MooneePonds@cam.org.au](mailto:MooneePonds@cam.org.au) with the subject line **Parish Contact List**.

**Sacramental Preparation for Children Attending Non-Catholic Schools—Confirmation 2024**

Classes to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation will commence early next year. Further information can be found in the information pack available from the Parish Office or from one of the priests after Mass. Please contact Fr Tony for further information.

**6.00pm Christmas Eve Choir**

Would you like to be part of the 6:00pm choir for Christmas Eve? Why not come along for a little advent reflection and song in preparation? Wednesday Evening 13th December from 7:00pm till 8:00pm in the Symons Centre. Come along and join us!

**The Sign: Advent & Christmas Daily Reflections 2023**

Once again, we have available this resource from the Diocese of Wollongong to nourish us and form during Advent as we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas. For each day there is a short Scripture passage, a reflection, and a prayer for the day. For Sundays, there is also a reflection on a piece of art, matched to the season. \$4.00 each - available from the Piety Stall. **Get your copy today—only a few copies remain!**

**Also available from the Piety Stall:**

**Columban Art Calendar 2024** now available — \$10.00 each.

**Christmas Cards—\$3.00** for a packet of 5; **\$5.00** for a packet of 8.

**St Vincent de Paul Giving Tree**

is once again in our church—Vinnies rely on it to stock their pantry for Christmas hampers. Please take a tag and help out today!

**Advent Timetable**

Tue 19th Dec	9.15am	Mass
	9.45am	Reconciliation
Wed 20th Dec	9.15am	Mass
	9.45am	Reconciliation
	7.30pm	Second Rite of Reconciliation
Thu 21st Dec	9.15am	Mass
	9.45am	Reconciliation
Fri 22nd Dec	9.15am	Mass
	9.45am	Reconciliation
Sat 23rd Dec	8.00am	Mass
	8.30am	Reconciliation

**Christmas Timetable**

Sun 24th Dec	6.00pm	Christmas Vigil Mass
	9.00pm	Christmas Vigil Mass
Mon 25th Dec	12.00am	Christmas Midnight Mass
	8.30am	Christmas Day Mass
	10.30am	Christmas Day Mass



**GAZA CRISIS APPEAL**

Help provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the people affected by the conflict.



**Child Safety Update** • There is an old African proverb which states it takes a village to raise a child. In much the same way, it takes a whole parish to care for and be responsible for the safety of our children and vulnerable adults.

**Working with Children Checks**—A reminder that **all parish volunteers** need to have a valid WWCC with the Parish listed as one of the places where you undertake child related work. That means all

- Readers
- Extraordinary Ministers of Communion
- Ministers of Communion to the Sick
- Musicians & Choir Members
- Church Cleaners

need to have a WWCC—if you are unsure, please contact the Parish Office or speak to one of the priests. Registered teachers are exempt from requiring a WWCC but are required to notify WWCC if they engage in child-related work other than their teaching—Click here to notify WWCC [Teacher notification](#)

**Child Safeguarding Training**—All volunteers need to undertake safeguarding training. You may undertake this training online [Online Safeguarding Training](#) The parish will also be running some inperson sessions in the near future—please keep an eye on this Bulletin for details.

**Code of Conduct Declaration**—Thanks to all those who have completed their Code of Conduct Declaration. Again, this is a requirement of all volunteers. We will be following up with those yet to complete their declaration.



**A communion that radiates**

*How can we be more fully a sign and instrument of union with God and of the unity of all humanity?*

**Participation, governance and authority**

*What processes, structures and institutions in a missionary synodal Church?*

**Co-responsibility in mission**

*How can we better share gifts and tasks in the service of the Gospel?*



Limited time offer

**5.55% p.a.**

12-month term investment with CDF Community Fund

By opening an account with CDF Community Fund, you are saving for a greater reward than money alone. Help build classrooms for students, churches for growing communities, hospital wings for the sick, aged care homes for the elderly and social service facilities for the most vulnerable.

It's a way to save while doing good.

Visit [catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer](http://catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer) to open an account and for disclosure details, or scan the QR code.



**Christmas Offerings** • Christmas Offering envelopes are available in the church. Christmas Offerings make an important contribution to the stipend of the priests of the Parish and in meeting normal household expenses. They also contribute to the support of sick and retired priests, to support priests in needy parishes, and also to support the Archbishop.

**Stewardship Corner**

**Prepare the way of the Lord...**

*Mark 1:3*

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. How are you helping others get to Heaven?

Special Collections 2023	
12 <sup>th</sup> February	Pastoral Care Appeal
Lent	Project Compassion
7 <sup>th</sup> April	Good Friday – Holy Places
4 <sup>th</sup> June	Propagation of the Faith
11 <sup>th</sup> June	SVdP Winter Appeal
25 <sup>th</sup> June	Annual Collection for the Holy Father
13 <sup>th</sup> August	CatholicCare
3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Priests' Retirement Foundation
22 <sup>nd</sup> October	World Mission Sunday
12 <sup>th</sup> November	Catholic Deaf
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Melbourne Overseas Mission



## Readings at Mass

The Second Sunday of Advent, Year B — 10th December 2023

### First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*Prepare the way for the Lord.*

'Console my people, console them'  
says your God.  
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem  
and call to her  
that her time of service is ended,  
that her sin is atoned for,  
that she has received from the hand of the Lord  
double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness  
a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God  
across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low,  
let every cliff become a plain,  
and the ridges a valley;  
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed  
and all mankind shall see it;  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,  
joyful messenger to Zion.  
Shout with a loud voice,  
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear,  
say to the towns of Judah,  
'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power,  
his arm subduing all things to him.  
The prize of his victory is with him,  
his trophies all go before him.  
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,  
gathering lambs in his arms,  
holding them against his breast  
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

### Responsorial Psalm: Ps 84:9-14

**R.** Lord, let us see your kindness,  
and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
a voice that speaks of peace,  
peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him  
and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth  
and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

The Lord will make us prosper  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him  
and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**

### Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

*We wait for new heavens and a new earth.*

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that

with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

### Gospel Acclamation: Luke 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths:  
all people shall see the salvation of God.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*Make straight the paths of the Lord.*

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;  
he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:  
Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'



**SUNDAY LITURGY @ HOME** (*click below*)

Adults: [Sunday Readings - Sunday Readings Year B](#)  
([weebly.com](#)) Children: [December 10 - Sunday 2 ADVENT -](#)  
[PRAYING WITH CHILDREN YEAR B 2023-2024](#)  
([yearbprayingwithchildren.org](#))